Hints on Buying

Watch Your Step On That Ladder

Ladders are indispensible for the handy man, if he plans to keep up with home maintenance problems at all.

Basic ladder for general chores is a six-foot stepladder. Anything shorter won't do for indoor painting or wall washing. A taller one would be nice to have for window washing and odd-job repairs out-of-doors.

CAN BE RENTED

For serious painting outdoors, a one-storey house calls for a 14-foot straight ladder. A 28-foot extension ladder is needed for two-storey homes. However, straight ladders can be rented, if you foresee infrequent use for them.

If you should buy a metal ladder, bear in mind that it can be extremely hazardous when used where wiring is present. Better borrow a wooden ladder when making electrical repairs.

STURDINESS

Wooden stepladders should be selected for durability, and wood used should be free of defects. Metal reinforcements should be good and sturdy; avoid ladders with tin can-thin reinforcements.

The spreader, the metal gadget that holds a stepladder open, should be of sturdy material too. All metal parts should be rust-resistant.

A ladder longer than 30 feet in length is too long for one man to handle. Stick to the 28-footer, as a maximum.

Never paint a ladder, and never buy an old ladder that has been painted. There's no way to spot hidden defects when a ladder's painted.

To preserve it, treat with linseed oil.

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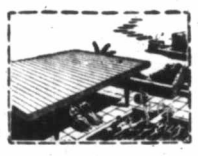

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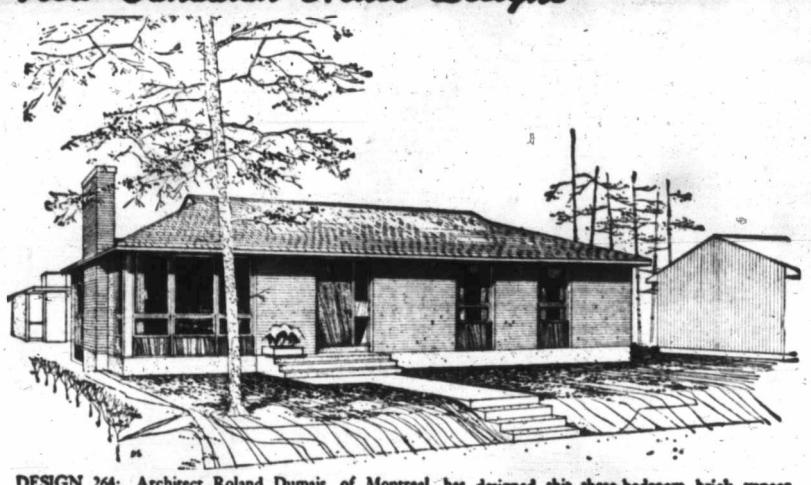
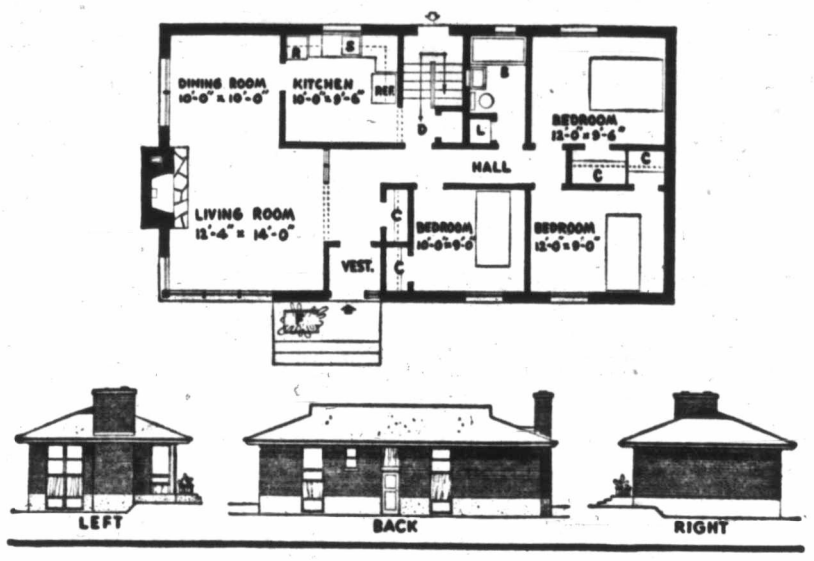
New Canadian House Designs



DESIGN 264: Architect Roland Dumais, of Montreal, has designed this three-bedroom brick veneer bungalow to be built of 'plank' construction. However, the dimensions are such that the more common frame construction can be substituted. The total floor area of the house is 1,104 square feet while the exterior dimensions are 46 feet by 24 feet. Working drawings for the plan may be obtained at minimum cost from Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation.



Do-It-Yourself *By Ralph Dalzell*

Now Is Time to Start Plan To Keep Cool in Summer

After the first few onslaughts of hot summer weather, readers write to ask how they can naturally make their houses cooler and more comfortable. Now, before hot weather arrives, is the time to plan to make houses cooler.

The summer sun radiates intense heat in the form of rays. Much of this heat enters the house. This can cause severe discomfort, especially in rooms directly under attic spaces.

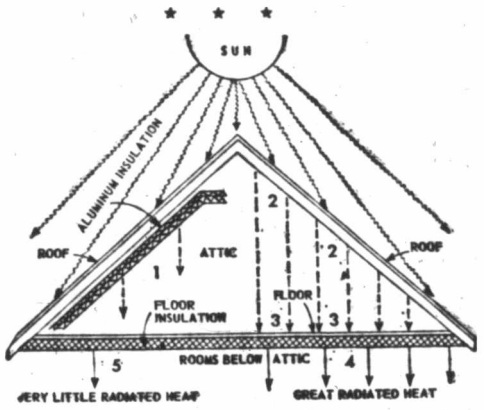
WINDOWS—If the sun's rays are allowed to pass through a window, heat is carried into the house, where it raises the temperature of the air, furniture and floors. They in turn radiate heat to the air. The remedy is to keep the sun's rays from entering through windows. Regular or Venetian blinds will help.

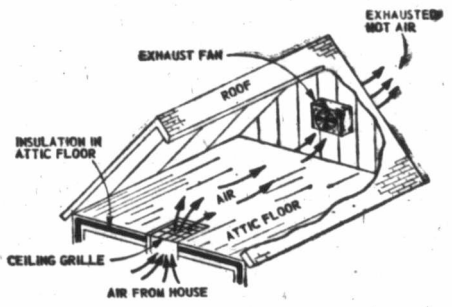
If the blinds were on the outside of the windows they would help much more. Special screens having slanting mesh are also of help. Awnings help if they are ventilated to avoid pockets of hot air. Windows opened at both tops and bottoms create some ventilation and a cooling effect. Moving air always makes one feel cooler.

WALLS—When the sun's rays strike the walls of a house, radiated heat is absorbed and stored by the structural members in the wall, which in turn radiates heat to the interior of the house. This often continues long after sunset. Any type of insulation in the walls appreciably helps to reduce the amount of heat radiated by them. For this purpose, aluminum foil insulation is most effective. But, in existing walls, only the type of insulation that is blown in can be used.

ROOF—A roof (see picture) is generally subjected to more of the sun's rays than windows or walls. A dark-colored roof absorbs a tremendous amount of heat. That heat, in turn, is radiated to the attic space. (See dotted lines at 2.) If the outdoor air has a temperature of about 95 degrees, the air in the attic space may reach a temperature as high as 140 degrees.

The attic heat is then radiated to the attic floor. (See dotted lines at 3.) The attic floor radiates heat to the rooms below, long after sunset. See solid lines at 4.) The usual form of the attic insulation does not prevent radiation because it, also, absorbs heat and radiates it.





Several remedies are possible. First, install aluminum foil insulation between roof rafters, as indicated at 1, so less heat is radiated from the roof to the attic space. The rooms below the attic space will be cooler as indicated at 5. If a roof is painted or stained a light color, some of the sun's rays will be reflected away and less heat will enter the rooms below the attic space.

Another way to reduce attic heat and to make the house appreciably cooler is to provide a louver, which can be opened and closed, at a high point in the room. Beneath it install a trap door in the attic hall. Hot attic air will rise and leave the attic space through the open louver. The hot air is replaced by air coming in through open windows in rooms below attic. No part of the house will be warmer than outdoor air because of this circulation. This is especially helpful after sunset.

High-powered exhaust fans (see lower part of picture) will draw air from all parts of a house and exhaust it, as indicated by the heavy black arrows. This procedure, either day or night, maintains interior temperatures at a level no higher than outdoor temperatures. Heat radiated through windows and wall is removed before it can cause discomfort.

Even during the day, circulating air has a cooling effect. At night, the cooling effect can be concentrated in the bedrooms by closing all other windows. Exhaust fans may bring in dust or pollen but they also provide the moving air which makes us feel cooler. They also take advantage of the cooler air that comes after darkness outside.

Room air-conditioners are now priced at a level that most home owners can afford. Such conditioners greatly reduce temperatures and humidity.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Q—I tried to paint new galvanized gutters and other flashing materials but found that the paint would not stick? Can you tell me what to do?

A—Until recently it was necessary to etch such metals with an acid before they could be successfully painted. Now, new products, as Galinoleum, can be applied directly to new metals.

Q—During the winter and also during wet weather, our concrete steps are slippery and dangerous. How can I make the concrete non-skid?

A—Non-skid paints for just such use are available at hardware and paint stores. Or, mix some very fine sand in with paint and apply that mixture to the steps. Thin the paint a little and then mix in the sand. Keep the mixture well stirred. This will give a skidproof surface for as long as the coating of paint lasts.

Strong Thieves Take Shop Safe

Thieves last night stole a 70-pound safe, $40 in coin and four cartons of cigarets after breaking and entering the Hillside Coffee Shop, 1005 Hillside, by way of a back window.

Owner George Harden said the loss was uninsured.

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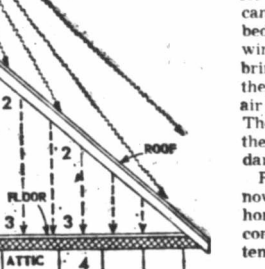

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New Compound Fills Up Cracks In Drives, Walks

Recall the childhood taboo about stepping on the cracks in the sidewalk?

It takes on real meaning to the homeowner when he's faced with deteriorating walks and drives, and with concrete slabs from which the flexible expansion joint has disappeared.

SOMETHING NEW

Designed to fill the crack-filling bill is a compound new in the market this spring.

Made of long fibres of asbestos and synthetic rubber compounds, it does not run or sag under a hot sun, nor will it become excessively hard and brittle at low temperatures.

It's formulated to stand up under repeated thawing-freezing cycles.

OUTDOOR USE

Built especially for outdoor use, it's highly resistant to liquids ordinarily encountered in daily living.

For small repair jobs, the substance is packaged in a cartridge for caulking gun use. In larger quantities, it will be available in one- and five-fallon cans.

UNOBTRUSIVE

Because the material is light gray in color, it won't stand out like a sore thumb when repairs are made.

In addition to sidewalk repairs, it is suitable for repairing garage floors, concrete roofs, and silos.

While no one recommends it as an additive to the list of ingredients for canapes, in which all sorts of oddments seem to be used these days, for all practical purposes the material is considered non-toxic.

USE ANYWHERE

For that reason, it can be used in repair of aquariums, swimming pools, and cisterns.

It will bond to porcelain enamel, and can be applied to stucco, plaster and enamel.

No primer is needed when it's applied to porous surfaces. After it surface-dries, the compound can be painted with rubber base, alkyd, latex or oil-type paints.

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Peach Trees	6-7 ft.	$1.95
Elwoodi Cypress	18-20 ins.	99¢
Spreading Junipers	from	$1.95
Golden Biotas	from	$2.25
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